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5 November 1985

GUATEMALAN ELECTIONS: TALKING POINTS FOR ADDI HPSCI BRIEFING

The Guatemalan national elections on Sunday were largely trouble free and already have been praised by international observers as orderly and honest.

- Early projections suggest the turnout will at least match the turnout for the July 1984 Constituent Assembly elections.
- US Embassy reporting indicates no major election irregularities.
- No candidates have yet leveled charges of interference by party officials or security forces, who succeeded in maintaining a low profile.
- Aside from distributing propaganda, no insurgent activity was reported. We have no reporting that rebels were able to keep voters away by intimidation.

Early returns--about 30-percent of the vote--give center-left Christian Democratic Party candidate Vinicio CEREZO Arevalo about 40-percent and Jorge CARPIO Niscolle of the National Centrist Union about 20-percent. Certified final results are not expected until the end of the week.

- Jorge SERRANO Elias of the Democratic Party of National Cooperation, a moderate conservative, and Mario SANDOVAL Alarcon of the rightist National Liberation Movement--each with less than 15-percent--are vying for third place.
- If these trends continue a run-off between CEREZO and CARPIO will be held on 8 December.

CEREZO and CARPIO are both pro-US moderates and are acceptable to the military

- A run-off will be dominated by behind the scenes politicking as both scramble to woo support from losers.
- The perception of an honest first round will significantly strengthen chances for a smooth run-off.

Serrano
PDC party
may be well
accept results

runners
that a deal
would be cut
to avoid
run-off

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Guatemala: Election at a Glance

The Political Spectrum:

<u>Left</u>	<u>Center Left</u>	<u>Center</u>	<u>Center Right</u>	<u>Right</u>	<u>Extreme Right</u>
Social Democratic Party (PSD)	Christian Democratic Party (DCG)	National Centrist Union (UCN)	National Renewal Party (PNR)	National Authentic Center (CAN)	National Liberation Movement (MLN)
Civic Democratic Front (FCD-5)		Democratic Party of National Cooperation (PDCN)	Peoples Democratic Force (FDP)	Institutional Democratic Party (PID)	Anti-Communist Democratic Front (PUA)
		Revolutionary Party (PR)	Emerging Movement for Harmony (MEC)	National Unity Front (FUN)	

The Major Presidential Candidates

Vinicio CEREZO Arevalo, DCG
Jorge CARPIO Nicolle, UCN
Jorge SERRANO Elias, PDCN
Mario SANDOVAL Alarcon, MLN

Key Dates

3 Nov 85 National elections
8 Dec 85 Presidential runoff
14 Jan 86 Presidential Inauguration; Constituent Assembly dissolved and new Congress sworn in; new constitution enters into force.

Vital Statistics

Eligible voters—3.9 million (estimate)
Registered voters—2.8 million (estimate)
Registered parties—14
Congressional seats—100
Governorships—not applicable
Mayoral/local races—329